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Docket No. DEP0546

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Serhan et al. Group Art Unit: 3732
Serial No.: 09/822,126 Examiner: Manahan, Todd E.
Filed: March 30, 2001
Title: Intervertebral Connection System

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Karen Day, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 10/30/03.

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Thomas M. DiMauro (name of Registered Representative) TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1400

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT CLAIM AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application and entry of the below amendments in view of the following amendment and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins at page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Abstract is reflected on page 12 of this paper.

Remarks begin at page 13 of this paper.

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